



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – March 14, 2011 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Acting Commissioner James P. Redeker Department of Transportation

H.B. 6120 - An Act Establishing a "Roadside Memorial" Sign Program for Persons Killed in Motor Vehicle Accidents.

The Department of Transportation (Department) offers the following comments on H.B. 6120.

The Department's Bureau of Highway Operations handles every instance of a roadside memorial after a tragic event with a loss of life with great care and sensitivity on a case by case basis. Every event, every situation is different and the Bureau works to reasonably and respectfully accommodate the families and loved ones involved.

Signing along roadways is intended to aid motorists with the task of driving. Signs make motorists aware of the laws that must be obeyed, of major destinations to which travelers may be going, and changing roadway features that require adjustments by the driver. Signs providing information other than these reasons compete for physical space and motorist attention, rendering more essential regulatory, warning and guide signs less effective.

The proposed legislation allows the Department to recover its administrative, purchasing, installation, and maintenance costs for the memorial signing from program participants. However, adding another program to the Department's already considerable administrative and maintenance responsibilities will only divert manpower from the agency's core responsibilities of providing a safe and efficient transportation system. We believe this added burden outweighs the value of this otherwise well-intentioned legislation.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.